



General Assembly

Forty-eighth Session

91st Meeting

Thursday, 24 March 1994, 10.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Insanally (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Request for the reopening of the consideration of agenda item 99 (b) (Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/48/36/Add.1))

The President: I should first like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the addendum to the report (A/48/36/Add.1) of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on its resumed first session, which contains the text of decision 14, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its resumed first session, on 11 March 1994.

In order to enable the Assembly to take action on the recommendation contained in decision 14, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 99 (b), entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to reopen consideration of that sub-item, for the sole purpose of considering the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the Conference and its preparatory process?

It was so decided.

The President: Representatives are aware that this sub-item was allocated to the Second Committee. However, in order for the Assembly to proceed expeditiously on this matter, the Assembly may wish to consider this sub-item in plenary meeting. May I take it that that is the wish of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The President: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of agenda item 99 (b)?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 99 (continued)

Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(b) Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on its resumed first session (A/48/36/Add.1)

The President: Section VI of the addendum to the report of the Preparatory Committee contains the text of decision 14, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its resumed first session. That decision reads as follows:

"The Preparatory Committee, recalling General Assembly resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992 by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and General Assembly resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993 by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, endorsed the Preparatory Committee's decision, taken at its organizational session of 16 April 1993, concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions, as observers, in the Conference and its preparatory process, decides to recommend to the General Assembly that consistent with the purpose of the voluntary fund, the voluntary fund be applied to assist associate members of regional commissions to participate fully and effectively, as observers, in the Conference and its preparatory process". (A/48/36/Add.1, p. 3)

May I take it that, on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully and effectively in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, decides that, consistent with the purpose of the voluntary fund, the voluntary fund be applied to assist associate members of regional commissions to participate fully and effectively, as observers, in the Conference and its preparatory process?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 99 (b)?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 176

Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly: draft resolution (A/48/L.55)

The President: I call upon the representative of the Russian Federation to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.55.

Mr. Vorontsov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Pursuant to a decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted on 24 December 1993 in the city of Ashkhabad, I have been instructed, as representative of the State that currently occupies the rotating chairmanship of the organs of the Commonwealth, to introduce the draft resolution on granting observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly.

The Commonwealth of Independent States was constituted on 22 January 1993, when it adopted its Charter, according to article 2 of which the purposes of the Commonwealth include promoting comprehensive economic and social development within the context of the States' common economic space; guaranteeing fundamental human rights and freedoms; and ensuring international peace and security and the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. Thus the purposes of the Commonwealth of Independent States are fully in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is a dynamically developing regional mechanism. A solid legal and treaty base has been created for cooperation, a standing executive body - the Advisory Committee on Coordination, at the level of Deputy Prime Ministers - has been set up, and more than 30 inter-State, intergovernmental and interdepartmental organs have been established to coordinate activities in various areas. The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States enjoys observer status in the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

At present the main direction of cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States is the economic development of its Member States. To overcome the economic crisis, it would be extremely helpful to strengthen integrational ties while laying particular stress on coordination of efforts to effect the transition to a market economy. The treaty that has been concluded to that end - to create an economic union - contemplates the creation, initially, of an international free-trade association; at a second stage, of a customs union; then of a common capital and work-force market; and, in the final stage, of a monetary union.

The Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States have adopted a declaration of international commitments and obligations in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In accordance with the Commonwealth's Charter, a human-rights

commission has been established. Part of its mandate is the monitoring of compliance with the relevant obligations undertaken by States of the Commonwealth. Thus the Commonwealth of Independent States can quite properly be considered as a regional arrangement under the United Nations Charter, one that has in fact validated itself in a number of similar arrangements and agencies.

At the current stage of the development of international relations, regional arrangements and agencies are acquiring significant political influence. Their activities are becoming important in such areas as economic development and dealing with social, humanitarian and ecological problems. They are also playing an increasingly conspicuous role in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this particular area the wealth of experience of the United Nations is extremely valuable to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

There is a real potential for cooperation between the Commonwealth and this universal Organization. It is important that the current sporadic contacts between them be promptly given a regular and more orderly basis. We are therefore convinced that the General Assembly will support the Commonwealth's request to be invited to participate as an observer in the Assembly's work. Such a decision would make it possible to genuinely strengthen cooperation between the Commonwealth of Independent States and the United Nations and to enhance their ability to promote peace and security and to cooperate at both the regional and global levels.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/48/L.55.

I now call on the representative of Ukraine, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

May I remind members that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Khandogy (Ukraine): In connection with draft resolution A/48/L.55, which is about to be adopted by the General Assembly, the delegation of Ukraine would like to state that Ukraine has not signed the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States, adopted on 24 December 1993 in Ashkhabad, concerning certain measures to ensure international recognition of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its statutory bodies, with regard to granting observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the

General Assembly. In not doing so, Ukraine acted on the basis of the Declaration of 20 December 1993 of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada - its Parliament - concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States, which stated that Ukraine declined to grant the Commonwealth the status of a subject of international law.

The delegation of Ukraine must draw attention to the fact that the basic documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States - namely, the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Alma Ata Declaration and the Commonwealth of Independent States Charter - do not qualify the status of the Commonwealth as one with the features of a subject of international law. The Commonwealth of Independent States is a special international, interregional formation which not only lacks definite status but actually includes a military and political alliance established on the basis of the Tashkent agreement on collective security of 15 May 1992, which binds only some members of the Commonwealth.

Under the circumstances, Ukraine is joining the consensus on draft resolution A/48/L.55 on the understanding that a Commonwealth of Independent States observer in the General Assembly will legally represent only those countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States which have signed and ratified the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 22 January 1993 and have become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Moreover, Ukraine considers that granting the Commonwealth of Independent States observer status in the General Assembly should not be interpreted as *de jure* recognition of the Commonwealth as a regional arrangement, as defined in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, bearing responsibilities for dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular for enforcement action under the authority of the Security Council.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.55.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/48/L.55 was adopted (resolution 48/237).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on the

resolution just adopted. Before calling on the first speaker, may I remind representatives that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I call first on the representative of Greece, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Glovas (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): The European Union welcomes the General Assembly's decision to grant observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States, and supports the principle behind that decision. The granting of observer status being a procedural decision without implications for the juridical status of the entity which is granted such status or for the prerogatives which it enjoys outside of the General Assembly, this decision is limited in scope. Yet we consider that today's decision can make a positive contribution to the harmonious development of international relations.

The President: I call on the representative of Norway, who will speak on behalf of the Nordic countries.

Mr. Bjørnli (Norway): On behalf of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Norway - I would like to welcome the decision just taken to grant observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly.

The Nordic countries would like to note, along the lines of the statement just made by the representative of the Presidency of the European Union, that this decision is limited in scope, since the granting of observer status is a procedural decision without implications for the juridical status of the entity which is granted such status or for the prerogatives which it enjoys outside of the General Assembly. We feel, none the less, that the decision just taken by the General Assembly will no doubt constitute a positive contribution to the harmonious development of international relations.

Mr. Filby (United States of America): We supported the draft resolution extending observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Commonwealth is indeed composed of independent States, whose sovereignty and territorial integrity we continue to support. They pursue objectives in their joint interest in the Commonwealth, and those who signed the joint communiqué issued by their Heads of State or Government in Ashkhabad in December 1993 signified their desire to

have observer status accorded the Commonwealth. We welcome the opportunity that observer status for the Commonwealth will create for a still richer exchange of information and views between its member States and the United Nations.

We wish to make it clear, however, that our support for observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly should not be construed as support for the Security Council's authorizing the CIS in any particular situation to engage in enforcement or other activities as provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter.

Ms. Rotheliser (Austria): Austria enjoys close and friendly relations with all States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We share the understanding, as expressed by the Presidency of the European Union and by the Nordic States, that the granting of observer status is a procedural decision without effect on the legal nature of the body concerned, or on its prerogatives outside of the General Assembly. In that context, we welcome the procedural decision to grant observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Ainso (Estonia): My delegation would like to associate itself with the remarks made by the representative of the United States.

Mr. Dumitriu (Romania): We welcome the endeavours of regional organizations to enhance their level of cooperation and consultation with the United Nations to the extent to which such cooperation can bring a real contribution in support of United Nations activities. It is in that spirit that we supported the draft resolution just adopted, entitled "Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly".

We consider the comments made by the representative of the European Union on the procedural character of the resolution to be sound and pertinent.

As a neighbouring country, Romania has joined with particular enthusiasm in the international support for the profound process of democratic change in the area. We are glad we are now dealing with a commonwealth of truly independent States, which has replaced the old imperial, totalitarian structures of the former Soviet Union. We hail the efforts of the newly independent States to act on their own in the international arena.

With that in mind, we would like to make some explanatory comments. First, it is our understanding that granting observer status to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) does not indicate to the participating States that it will be necessary for them to address the international community through the CIS, and that the CIS should act as initially conceived, as a forum for consultations between equal, sovereign States.

It is our understanding also that granting observer status to the CIS does not imply that the United Nations has granted generic responsibilities for any pacification operation on the territory of the former Soviet Union, either unilaterally by a member country or by the CIS as a whole, under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Peace-keeping operations should be carried out in strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, with the provisions of the 1992 Helsinki Document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and with respect for the principles contained in the report of the ad-hoc working group of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council adopted in Athens in June 1993.

When considering any possible development of CIS involvement in the efforts of the international community peacefully to settle international conflicts, we ought to bear in mind that the possibility enshrined in the Charter for regional arrangements to be involved in dealing with conflicts is conditioned upon the existence of an initiative by the States concerned or a referral by the Security Council. We assume that this spirit applies also to any conflict on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

In order to ensure that these possible bottlenecks will not affect the genuine capacity of the CIS to contribute to United Nations activities, we would consider it useful for the Secretariat to proceed to consultations with the interested countries on the specific modalities of cooperation envisaged between the CIS and the United Nations.

The President: The representative of the Russian Federation has asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. Let me recall that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and five minutes for the second intervention, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Vorontsov (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): Some speakers have expressed doubt that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is in fact a regional arrangement within the meaning of Chapter VIII

of the Charter. We believe that these doubts are based on a lack of knowledge about the nature of the Commonwealth and the agreements concluded among its members.

Those agreements include an agreement on a military observer group and on joint forces for maintaining peace within the CIS. This was signed by the Heads of States members of the CIS, including Ukraine, in Kiev on 20 March 1992. That agreement and its protocol form the legal basis for peace-making operations by all members of the CIS. The documents were prepared on the basis of the experience and practice of the United Nations in carrying out peace-keeping operations. They are fully consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, as is clear from the Charter of the CIS, which I cited earlier in this meeting.

We are certain that granting observer status to the CIS in the General Assembly will help provide United Nations Members with all the information they need and will dispel any misunderstandings that may have arisen.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 176?

It was so decided.

Introduction of reports of the Fifth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 120, 136, 137, 138 and 149. I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Kabir (Bangladesh), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee on four agenda items concerning the United Nations peace-keeping operations and an agenda item relating to the financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors.

Part II of the report of the Committee on agenda item 120, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", is contained in document A/48/752/Add.2. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision which was adopted by the Fifth Committee at its 52nd meeting, on 16 March 1994.

Concerning agenda item 136, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force", the Fifth Committee's report (part III) on this item is contained in document A/48/819/Add.2. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee at its 53rd meeting, on 18 March 1994.

On agenda item 137, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II", the Fifth Committee's report (part III) is contained in document A/48/820/Add.2. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee at its 55th meeting, on 23 March 1994. Here, I wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that in the last line of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution the word "independent", in brackets, should be deleted.

Concerning agenda item 138, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", the Committee's report (part III) on this item is contained in document A/48/807/Add.2. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee at its 53rd meeting, on 18 March 1994.

On agenda item 149, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique", the Committee's report (part III) on this item is contained in document A/48/821/Add.2. In paragraph 7 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee at its 53rd meeting, on 18 March 1994.

I am pleased to inform the Assembly that all five of the resolutions or decisions introduced here this morning were adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made

clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee.

Agenda item 120 (continued)

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/752/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Special audit of all aspects of procurement for peace-keeping operations and observer missions", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 120.

Agenda item 136 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Protection Force: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/819/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/238).

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 136.

Agenda item 137 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/820/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution, as orally revised by the Rapporteur?

The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 48/239).

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 137.

Agenda item 138 (continued)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/807/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 138.

Agenda item 149 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/821/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/240).

The President: I now call on the representative of Mozambique to explain his position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Afonso (Mozambique): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to welcome the adoption of the resolution on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) covering the period from November 1993 to April 1994.

As on previous similar occasions, today's decision represents an important step forward in the effort to bring to an end a conflict which ravaged our country for so many years. We are grateful to the entire international community for its continued assistance to our people. Adequate resources are of great importance to the success of any United Nations peace-keeping operation. In the case of ONUMOZ, the issue of adequate resources assumes greater significance given the need for us to redouble our collective efforts in the period prior to the general elections.

As members will recall, we are currently engaged in the process of demobilization of forces. Demobilization is clearly one of the most important components of the whole process, for it will allow the elections to be held under conditions of peace and tranquillity for all Mozambicans. For this reason, this process requires full monitoring by ONUMOZ in order to establish the transparency of the process and to promote confidence among the parties. This can be facilitated through an efficient and resourceful ONUMOZ. In view of all this, my delegation hopes that the General Assembly will review the Secretary-General's next report called for in paragraph 16 (a) of the resolution - perhaps the last such report - in the same spirit of understanding as it has on previous occasions.

My Government shares the concerns expressed in this resolution regarding the deteriorating financial situation with regard to the peace-keeping operations. As we stated in the Security Council last month, we are conscious of the burden placed on the international community in assisting

us in our endeavours to bring peace, harmony and tranquillity to our country. I should like to assure members that my Government will continue to abide fully by our commitments under the Rome Agreement and to work towards the completion of this process by October. A successful outcome of the forthcoming elections will be, in our assessment, the best contribution not only to peace in Mozambique and the entire southern African region, but also to the efforts to limit the expenditures on peace-keeping operations. More importantly, I believe, a successful completion of the mandate of ONUMOZ will assist the people of Mozambique in their efforts towards national reconciliation and will contribute to regional cooperation, peace and stability.

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 149.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to inform representatives that the next plenary meeting will be convened on Tuesday, 5 April 1994, when the Assembly will take up remaining Fifth Committee reports on the financing of peace-keeping operations and any other pending matters ready for consideration.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.



General Assembly

Forty-eighth Session

92nd Meeting

Tuesday, 5 April 1994, 10.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Insanally (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Agenda item 127 (continued)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/48/853/Rev.1/Add.1)

The President: I should like to draw the General Assembly's attention to document A/48/853/Rev.1/Add.1.

In a letter contained in that document, the Secretary-General informs me that, since the issuance of his communication dated 9 March 1994, Senegal has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
Eleventh report of the General Committee (A/48/250/Add.10)**

The President: The eleventh report of the General Committee concerns a request by Mozambique for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique".

The General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this additional item in its agenda?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Committee further decided to recommend to the Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: May I also take it that, as requested by the sponsor, the item should be given priority for consideration by the Assembly this morning because of its urgent character?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly will thus consider the item on emergency assistance to Mozambique as the last item of this morning's meeting.

I should like to inform members that this new item becomes item 179 of the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and that the documents reflecting its inclusion and allocation will be issued tomorrow.

I should also like to inform members that a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Mozambique will shortly be available in the General Assembly Hall as document A/48/L.56.

Request for the reopening of the consideration of agenda item 17 (b) (Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions): note by the Secretary-General (A/48/102/Add.3)

The President: In his note the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that he has received notification of the resignation of Mr. Imre Karbuczky (Hungary) from the membership of the Committee on Contributions and that the Assembly will therefore be required at its current session to appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Karbuczky, that is, until 31 December 1994.

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 17 (b), entitled "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions".

May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to reopen consideration of agenda item 17 (b)?

It was so decided.

The President: Members will recall that, at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the Assembly allocated this item to the Fifth Committee.

May I take it that the Assembly again wishes to allocate this item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President: The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

Request for the reopening of the consideration of agenda item 98 (International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction): note by the Secretary-General (A/48/911)

The President: In his note the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that in its decision 1 of 18 March 1994 the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision. That draft decision is reproduced in document A/48/911.

In order for the General Assembly to take action on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the

World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 98, entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction".

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to reopen consideration of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

The President: Representatives are aware that this agenda item was allocated to the Second Committee. However, in order for the Assembly to proceed expeditiously on this matter, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee, the text of which, for ease of reference, is reproduced in document A/48/911?

I see no objection. We will proceed accordingly.

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: note by the Secretary-General (A/48/911)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which appears in paragraph 1 of document A/48/911.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 121 (continued)

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations:

Appointment of the members of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts Established Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 48/218

The President: Members will recall that at its 87th plenary meeting, on 23 December 1993, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in its report on this agenda item, the Assembly adopted resolution 48/218, by which it established an ad hoc intergovernmental working group of experts in the legal and financial fields which would study the possibility of the establishment of a new jurisdictional and procedural mechanism or of the extension of mandates and improvement of the functioning of existing jurisdictional and procedural mechanisms.

The Assembly further decided that the group would consist of 25 members, and invited the President of the General Assembly to define the composition of the working group, with due regard for equitable geographical representation, and to convene it as soon as possible.

Members will recall that at its 3rd plenary meeting, held on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly allocated item 121 to the Fifth Committee. In order to enable the Assembly to consider directly in plenary meeting matters relating to the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, the Assembly would have to reconsider the decision taken at our 3rd plenary meeting on the allocation of this item. Therefore, a decision is required under rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to reconsider the question of the allocation of agenda item 121.

It was so decided.

The President: In the light of the decision just taken, we will now reconsider the question of the allocation of agenda item 121.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to consider agenda item 121 directly in plenary meeting for the sole purpose of considering matters relating to the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts, on the understanding that the Fifth Committee would remain seized of the item for its customary consideration?

It was so decided.

The President: After extensive consultations with the Chairmen of the Groups of African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States, I informed them by my letter dated 1 March 1994 that I would be guided by the following geographical distribution in appointing the members of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts:

African States:	six seats
Asian States:	five seats
Eastern European States:	three seats
Latin American and Caribbean States:	five seats
Western European and Other States:	six seats

Following further consultations with the Chairmen of the Groups of African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States, I have appointed the following States as members of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts Established Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 48/218, with effect from 5 April 1994: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Russian Federation, Senegal, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided.

The President: Regarding the remaining vacancy, to be filled from the African States, I intend to hold further consultations with the Chairman of the Group with a view to arriving at a decision at the earliest possible moment.

For the information of delegations, I wish to read out the names of the following persons who have been designated by the States members of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts to represent them on the Working Group:

Mr. M'hand Ladjouzi (Algeria), Dr. Susana Ruff Cerutti (Argentina), Dr. Movses Abelian (Armenia), Mr. Rufat Novruzov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Besley Maycock (Barbados), Mr. Lucius Maia Araujo (Brazil), Ms. Bonnie Miller (Canada), Mr. Wang Baoli (China),

Mr. Alfredo Rey (Colombia), Dr. Pedro Desiderio Blandino Canto (Dominican Republic), Mr. Adel El Safty (Egypt), Dr. Erkki Kourula (Finland), Mr. Pierre Lelong (France), Dr. Helmut Kitschenberg (Germany), Mr. Sivasubramanian (India), Mr. Yoshikazu Toyama (Japan), Dr. Hanna Odeh (Jordan), Mr. Rosli bin Abdullah (Malaysia), Mr. Mahamane Amadou Maiga (Mali), Mr. Vladimir Kuznetsov (Russian Federation), Mr. Mame Balla Sy (Senegal), Mr. Tarek Ben Hamida (Tunisia), Mr. Michael Wood (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Herbert Reith (United States of America).

I should like to inform the Assembly that the first session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 15 April 1994.

Members will recall that at the time of the adoption of resolution 48/218 the report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the resolution indicated that, should the Assembly adopt the proposed resolution, "no additional appropriations would be required at this stage for servicing the working group of 25 experts". (A/48/801, para. 13)

I have been informed that there was an understanding in the Fifth Committee when recommending this resolution for adoption that the members of the Working Group would, as an exceptional measure, be paid travel and subsistence expenses. Such expenses would not, as I have just indicated, entail additional appropriations at this stage.

May I take it that the Assembly, in the light of the understanding reached in the Fifth Committee, wishes to authorize the payment of such expenses?

It was so decided.

Introduction of reports of the Fifth Committee

The President: The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 123, 130 (a) and (b), 131, 132 (a), 134, 138 (a), 160, 162, 164, 165, 166 and 173. I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Kabir (Bangladesh), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee on

outstanding issues concerning the United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Concerning agenda item 123, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", in particular the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under sections 3, 4 and 11A relating to the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, part II of the Fifth Committee's report is contained in document A/48/811/Add.1. In paragraph 3 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of an oral draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Concerning agenda item 130, entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East", namely, (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the reports of the Fifth Committee are contained in documents A/48/812/Add.1 and A/48/813/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of both reports, the Fifth Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of draft decisions.

On agenda item 131, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", part II of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/814/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

The report of the Committee on agenda item 132 (a), entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission", is contained in document A/48/815/Add.2. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

On agenda item 134, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador", part III of the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/817/Add.2. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

Concerning agenda item 138, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", particularly the report of the Secretary-General on the

support account for peace-keeping operations, part IV of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/807/Add.3. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

On agenda item 160, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus", part II of the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/822/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

Part II of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 162, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia", is contained in document A/48/823/Add.1. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of an oral draft decision submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 164, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda", part II of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/825/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

On agenda item 165, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti", part II of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/826/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

On agenda item 166, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia", part II of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/827/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

Lastly, on agenda item 173, "Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda", part II of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/828/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

I am pleased to report that those resolutions and decisions were adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 123 (continued)

Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995: report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/811/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of part III of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Revised estimates under sections 3, 4 and 11A of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", was adopted by the Fifth

Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/228 B).

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

Agenda item 130 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) **United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/812/Add.1)**

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

(b) **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/813/Add.1)**

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 130.

Agenda item 131 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission: Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/814/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/241).

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 131.

Agenda item 132 (continued)

Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

(a) **United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/815/Add.2)**

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part III of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/242).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 132.

Agenda item 134 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador: report of the Fifth Committee (Part III) (A/48/817/Add.2)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part III of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/243).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 134.

Agenda item 138 (continued)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

- (a) **Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee (Part IV) (A/48/807/Add.3)**

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part IV of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "Support account for peace-keeping operations", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/226 B).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 138.

Agenda item 160 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/822/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/244).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 160.

Agenda item 162 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/823/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of Part II of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 162.

Agenda item 164 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/825/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/245).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 164.

Agenda item 165 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/826/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/246).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 165.

Agenda item 166 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/827/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/247).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 166.

Agenda item 173 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/48/828/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/248).

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 173.

Agenda item 179

Emergency assistance to Mozambique: draft resolution (A/48/L.56)

The President: In accordance with the decision taken earlier, the Assembly will now consider agenda item 179, entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique".

In view of the desire of the sponsor to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.56. In this connection, since the draft resolution has just been circulated, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with the proposal put to it.

It was so decided.

The President: I now call on the representative of Cameroon to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.56.

Mr. Bilon Tang (Cameroon): On behalf of the African Group, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.56, entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique".

As the Assembly is aware, a major tropical cyclone has recently stricken vast areas of central and northern Mozambique. It left behind a picture of anguish and destruction. A number of people have been killed and others have suffered injuries. About 2 million people have been affected, 1.5 million of whom have been left without shelter.

There has been widespread destruction of property. The economic, political and social consequences of this tragedy are yet to be fully assessed. All I can say now is that Mozambique is facing a national tragedy of grave proportions which may put in jeopardy the efforts currently under way to bring a lasting peace to that country.

Given the high level of destruction of key economic infrastructures, including the Nacala Corridor, which serves a significant number of countries of the hinterland, the consequences of this natural calamity are likely to have a negative regional impact.

The draft resolution before the Assembly today is an attempt to sensitize the international community to this grave situation and to mobilize international solidarity for the victims. The draft resolution has been prepared in line with similar documents we have seen before. Therefore, we consider it a non-controversial text.

In its preambular part, *inter alia*, it notes with grave concern the loss of human lives and the extensive devastation caused by the cyclone. It notes, furthermore, that the stricken areas were still in a process of recovery

from the consequences of war and previous natural calamities. It also notes the negative impact of the cyclone on the national economy and on the ongoing collective efforts aimed at bringing a lasting peace and tranquillity to Mozambique.

The operative segment of the draft resolution declares solidarity with the people and the Government of Mozambique; notes with satisfaction the national efforts currently under way to assist the victims of the cyclone; commends the international community for its prompt response to assist the people in need; requests the Secretary-General and the competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, to mobilize relief assistance to the victims of this natural calamity; and requests, furthermore, the international community to provide additional support to Mozambique to mitigate the economic, financial and social consequences endured by the people and the Government of Mozambique in their efforts to recover from the cyclone and to enable the country to continue pursuing its development goals.

Finally, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to review the consequences of the cyclone on the national economy and to include his observations and recommendations in his report on assistance to Mozambique in connection with resolution 47/42.

Those are the few remarks I intended to make to introduce the draft resolution on "Emergency assistance to Mozambique". It is my hope that it will command the support of the General Assembly and be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Afonso (Mozambique): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the General Assembly and the international community at large for their continued assistance to our people. We regard today's initiative to consider on an urgent basis the issue of emergency assistance to Mozambique as a clear demonstration of international solidarity.

Although the aftermath of the tropical cyclone "Nadia", which has affected vast areas of Mozambican territory, will be felt for a long time to come, I believe today's action by the General Assembly will be instrumental in assisting our people to mitigate the devastating consequences of the tragedy we are facing today in my country. It will help keep our hearts beating and renew our hopes for a better future.

I am saddened to report that to date 34 people have been confirmed dead, while thousands more have sustained severe injuries. We have not been able to determine with certainty the exact extent of losses or damage to the national economy. However, it is a fact that we have suffered a national tragedy of unforeseen consequences. Its aftermath, as well outlined by the Chairman of the African Group, to whom I am very much indebted, is likely to have an overall negative regional impact.

This is yet another national tragedy, coming at a time when all our efforts are concentrated on the full implementation of the General Peace Agreement, and especially on the demobilization of forces, the creation of the new army and the preparation for the general elections in October this year.

In general, most of the affected areas in Nampula, Zambezia, Manica and Sofala were still involved in a gradual but steady process of recovery from the consequences of previous natural calamities, such as the recent drought, the worst of its kind in living memory for the peoples of the southern African region. The long-lasting conflict that we have experienced for so many years makes it even more difficult to cope with challenges such as the one we are facing today.

There has been widespread destruction of property, especially in Nampula Province, one of the most densely populated areas in Mozambique, where an estimated 2 million people have been affected, of whom 1.5 million have been left without shelter.

About 80 per cent of the country's agricultural production, which was due for harvesting in a couple of weeks, has been lost. In addition, an estimated 80 per cent of the cashew nut crop was also lost. As the Assembly is aware, cashew nut exports are one of the most important sources of Mozambique's foreign exchange earnings. It is clear that these losses will seriously hamper our efforts to move from emergency relief towards a normal process of development. The destruction leaves a great hole in the nation's prospects for economic recovery, and its aftermath will be felt for many years to come.

In the urban centres almost everything was destroyed by the cyclone. Nearly all commercial, private and public buildings were either destroyed or severely damaged. The city of Nacala, in Nampula, suffered unprecedented destruction. An estimated 95 per cent of

energy supply capacity has been destroyed completely. This situation is further exacerbated by the destruction of about 130 kilometres of power lines from the Cahora Bassa dam to the Nampula-Nacala region. This has left millions of people in serious jeopardy. The water and sewerage systems and schools and hospitals have either been destroyed or are severely damaged, posing a grave threat to public health and to the well-being of millions of people.

The recently upgraded facilities of the port at Nacala have been destroyed or have suffered substantial damage. The Nacala corridor is one the three corridors that play a significant role in the efforts towards regional cooperation. Its destruction will therefore pose a serious problem for a number of the countries in the hinterland, including our neighbour, Malawi. In addition to the losses I have described, three vessels were sunk and many others sustained serious damage.

My Government has been doing everything in its power to assist the victims of this tragedy. Let me take this opportunity to thank, once again, all those Governments that have responded to our call and governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Norwegian Agency for International Development and the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination in Maputo, for the kind support they have given our people and our Government. Their kind and timely assistance has been instrumental in preventing further tragedy.

I am deeply touched by the expressions of condolence I have heard this morning, and earlier, over the loss of human life and the destruction of property. I shall convey that message to the people of Mozambique and to my Government. For our part, despite this tragedy, we remain determined to keep our hopes alive, and we shall continue our efforts for national reconstruction and for peace and prosperity in our country.

The President: I thank the representative of Mozambique, and reiterate to him and, through him, to the Government and people of Mozambique, the expression of our sympathy and solidarity in the terrible natural disaster that has befallen his country.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.56. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/48/L.56 was adopted (resolution 48/249).

The President: May I take it, therefore, that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 179?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.